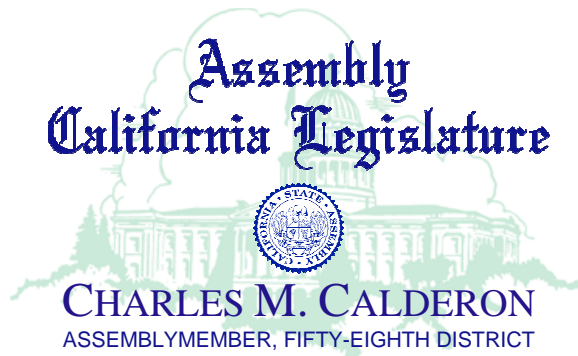


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September 3, 2009

Lester Snow
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Email: DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov

RE: Request for reconsideration of the RAP denial of the LA Gateway IRWM JPA Authority (Gateway Authority)

Dear Director Snow:

As a legislator who wrote in support of the Gateway IRWM Authority's application to DWR, I am disappointed to learn that DWR has preliminarily denied the group's status as a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). This decision does nothing to move the process forward, especially in light of their seemingly specious argument: *...the rationale for forming a separate IRWM Region, exclusive of the GLAC IRWM Region, is not compelling. Therefore, DWR does not approve the Gateway Region.* I believe there has been a fundamental misunderstanding:

- The Gateway IRWM Authority clearly meets the qualification for a RWMG as defined in the State Water Code.
- The Gateway Authority was formed at the direction of the Gateway Council of Governments (COG). I support this action and believe the intent of the locally elected officials to represent the people of the Gateway Cities is undermined by DWR's preliminary decision. Indeed, I would go so far as to say the continued neglect of the pressing needs of the Gateway Region has far-reaching consequences that would degrade the intent of IRWM legislation.
- DWR's assertion that there is boundary overlap with the Greater Los Angeles County group is a matter of perspective. Only the Gateway Authority has the sanction of the Gateway Region cities and of the COG. Therefore, there is absolutely no overlap in regional boundaries.
- The Gateway Region includes 27 cities, the water wholesaler Central Basin MWD, and the region's groundwater quality advocate, the Southeast Water Coalition. *None of the cities in this region have consented to regional water management representation by any other agency.*
- The Gateway Authority has a successful record of effective governance and integrated planning for regional water needs. [Currently, the Gateway Authority secured a \$10 million ARRA grant to improve water quality in the Los Angeles River and is administering a Metals TMDL monitoring and implementation plan in the San Gabriel River.]
- The Gateway Region is a vast area: its two million people comprise nearly 6% of the state. It also represents the highest concentration of minority and disadvantaged communities in Southern California.

There is a historic and well documented neglect of the Gateway Region by larger County planning efforts in a multitude of disciplines. Though DWR acknowledges as much in the Recommendations for the GLAC Region, they have not proposed a remedy for this inveterate problem; in fact the approval of their region imposes no consequence.

I urge DWR to reconsider the Gateway IRWM Authority's status as a RWMG. Should you have questions regarding my support of the Gateway Authority, please contact Marisela Cervantes of my staff at (562) 692-5858.

Sincerely,

Honorable Charles M. Calderon
56th Assembly District